(01/26/1998)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-08-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE Date: 07/10/2001

To: Kansas City Attn: SSA/CT Programs Squad

Investigative Services Attn: SSA [redacted] IOU-1

From: Copenhagen
Contact: ALAT [redacted], ext. [redacted] b6 b7C

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted] jmt

Case ID #: 163C-CH-160 (Pending)

Title: [redacted]
WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH (WBC),
Topeka, Kansas;
THREAT OF FORCE OR INTIMIDATION AGAINST PERSON b6 b7C

Synopsis: Setting lead for Kansas City to furnish a threat assessment re captioned subject, [redacted] and WBC congregation following alleged comments threatening current Finnish President Tarja Halonen.

Details: [redacted] have requested the FBI to determine whether captioned subject, his wife or members of the WBC congregation pose a credible threat to their president. According to the SUPO request, an article published on the WBC website homepage on the Internet, at address, www.godhatesfags.com/home.html advised that the HBC congregation intended to go to Finland in order to publicly burn the Finnish flag. It was noted that a similar flag-burning incident occurred previously in Canada (NFI). b6 b7C b7D

Specifically, [redacted] request asks, "do the authorities in the USA know about the (WBC) congregation and [redacted]? Has the congregation been engaged in criminal activity in the USA and must we consider the congregation or the persons acting within it dangerous?"

To: Kansas City:
Investigative Services:
From: Legat Copenhagen
Re: 163C-CH- 07/10/2001

For information of Kansas City, Legat Copenhagen has enjoyed an extremely close and cooperative professional relationship with [redacted], which has resulted in unanimously positive comments from FBI field office and FBIHQ officials upon review of [redacted] work product. In this regard, Kansas City is requested to respond with an LHM, suitable for dissemination, which addresses the concerns outlined above, as appropriate.

Copenhagen appreciates respondents' efforts to cover lead.

b7D

LEAD (s):

Set Lead 1:

KANSAS CITY

AT TOPEKA, KS

Review issues raised in [redacted] request, conduct a threat assessment of the potential that captioned subject and/or members of the WBC congregation pose a credible threat (including criminal history) to the personal safety of Finnish President Tarja Halonen and respond in LHM, suitable for dissemination, as appropriate.

Set Lead 2:

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

AT IOU-1

To: Kansas City:
Investigative Services:
From: Legat Copenhagen
Re: 163C-CH- 07/10/2001

Read and clear.

♦♦

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163C-CH-160

[redacted]

Westboro Baptist Church (WBC),
Topeka, Kansas,
Threat of Force or Intimidation Against Person

[redacted] of the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC), Topeka, Kansas. In that capacity, he purports an anti-gay and anti-lesbian philosophy which he expresses via the Internet, demonstrations, and speeches. b6 b7C

The FBI has not opened any cases relating to [redacted] or his supporters because his activities do not fall within the Attorney General or FBI guidelines for investigations.

However, due to his activities, numerous FBI offices have requested background. The following information is being provided and has originated from public source information (newspapers, etc) available to the FBI agents in Topeka, Kansas. None of this information was obtained through any active FBI investigation.

[redacted] is a [redacted] who is also an [redacted]. During the 1960's, he was a [redacted]. Numerous of his children are also [redacted] Topeka, Kansas. [redacted] a church in Topeka, Kansas, which is surrounded by the private residences of his children and supporters. [redacted] has ran unsuccessfully for a number of political offices. b6 b7C

For the past few years, [redacted] has preached an anti-gay philosophy and will use the Internet and fax machines to send inflammatory information. [redacted] will use supporters, including children, to picket gay functions including funerals. The pickets can be very provocative.

However, [redacted] has been very cooperative with federal, state and local law enforcement regarding obeying laws, rules, and regulations.

In fact, his group will usually contact the local law enforcement agency prior to a legal picket and demand protection. Due to their legal backgrounds, the group is usually very careful about not obviously disobeying the law. They have never been known to have weapons, explosives, or threaten human life. Therefore, no FBI case has ever been conducted on this group.

[redacted] has traveled overseas (Canada and Iran) in his crusade. If [redacted] is contacted by Finnish authorities regarding his trip to Finland, he will probably open up a line of communication and be cooperative with their requests.

b6
b7C

If something happens, it will probably be the reaction of the people viewing the picket, event, or flag burning toward [redacted] or his group. Normally, the group will video tape their event for their own protection.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-08-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

(Rev. 10-01-1999)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE Date: 08/23/2001

To: Copenhagen Attn: ALAT [redacted]

From: Kansas City
Topeka RA
Contact: SA [redacted]

b6
b7C

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]

Case ID #: 163C-CH-160

Title: [redacted]
Westboro Baptist Church (WBC);
Topeka, Kansas;
Threat of Force or Intimidation Against Person

Synopsis: Response of Kansas City Division to Legat Copenhagen request for information relating to captioned matter. No further investigation is being conducted.

Enclosures: Enclosed for Legat Copenhagen are two copies of an LHM suitable for dissemination.

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DATE 09-08-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 163C-CH-160
Serial 3

Legal Attaché Office
United States Embassy
Dag Hammarskjölds Allé 24
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø Denmark
February 1, 2002

[redacted]

b7D

Re: Your reference # [redacted]

Dear [redacted]:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of investigation conducted by FBI-Kansas City, as requested by your service in a communication with the above referenced number.

Please find enclosed one copy of an FBI Letterhead Memorandum (LHM), which was dated 23 August 2001. Please accept our apologies for the delayed reporting, which resulted in part due to the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

If there are any questions regarding this request or further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact our office directly at the following telephone numbers: [redacted] and (unsecure) facsimile number [redacted]. b2

The cooperation of your service in this matter is highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Patton
Legal Attaché

By: [redacted] b6 b7C
Assistant Legal Attaché

enclosure
1 - addressee
1 - 163C-CH-160
JMT:tip

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 09-08-2010 BY 60322 uc/lp/stp/fls

(Rev. 08-28-2000)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE Date: 01/28/2003

To: Copenhagen

From: Copenhagen
Contact: [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted] jcw

Case ID #: 163C-CH-160

Title: WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH, ET AL
FOREIGN POLCIE COOPERATION - FINLAND
OO: COPENHAGEN

Synopsis: No additional assistance is needed. Close case.

Details: On 1/16/03, ALAT [redacted] was advised by [redacted] that no additional assistance was needed in the above captioned case. Therefore, Copenhagen is closing its investigation.

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

To: Copenhagen From: Copenhagen
Re: 163C-CH-160, 01/28/2003

LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Adm)

COPENHAGEN

AT COPENHAGEN

Close case administratively.

♦♦